

-----Original Message-----

From: McClure, Michael (NICHD)
Sent: Monday, November 02, 1998 12:54 PM
To: Alexander, Duane (NICHD); Skirboll, Lana (OD); Borrer, Kristina (OD)
Cc: McClure, Michael (NICHD)
Subject: Human Embryo Derived Pluripotent Cell Lines/ GERON Corp.
Importance: High

Dear Colleagues: I have received permission (12:40 p.m., November 2, 1998) from GERON Corp. (Dr. Thomas B. Okarama, Ph.D., M.D.; Vice President, Research and Development) to provide further information to appropriate senior NIH staff on a "need to know" basis under an extant confidentiality agreement. GERON has successfully developed viable, long term sustainable Embryonic Stem (ES) cell lines from human embryos that

hold significant potential for applications in human medicine. The millenium of the genomic physician has apparently begun.

A paper entitled "Embryonic Stem Cell Lines Derived from Human Blastocysts" will appear in the Friday, November 6th issue of SCIENCE.

It is embargoed until 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 5th. The lead author is James A. Thomson of the University of Wisconsin. Thompson is an NIH grantee P.I. ----- BUT NO NIH FUNDS were involved in this human work to be reported in Science.

The ES cell lines developed have been shown to capable of being directed to form all three embryonic germ layers (endoderm, mesoderm, ectoderm) that give rise to gut epithelium, cartilage, bone, smooth muscle, striated muscle, neural epithelium, embryonic ganglia or stratified squamous epithelium.

This will have broad clinical applications in drug discovery, transplantation medicine, and tissue engineering as well as human developmental biology research.

Unlike John Gearhart's announcement in early 1998, this is not likely to go just being noticed *en passant*.

I have further details if needed.

Here we go again.

Mike McClure/NICHD

Michael E. McClure, Ph.D., Chief, Reproductive Sciences Branch
Center for Population Research, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
Bldg. 61E, Room 8B01, Bethesda, Md 20892-7510
301-496-6515 (Tele), 301-496-0962 (Fax), mm141c@nih.gov (e-mail)
Courier Address: 6100 Executive Blvd, Room 8B01, Rockville, Md 20852